

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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R 210650Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6305

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 0353

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJECT: SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL MISSION (SCI)

REF: STATE 011449

1. POST WELCOMES SISTER-CITIES MISSION (REFTEL). THIS MAY WORK TO STIMULATE INSTITUTIONALIZED TIES WHICH WE SEEK WITH VARIETY OF ROMANIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONALITIES.

2. WE SUGGEST THAT SCI PLAN TO VISIT BRASOV AS WELL AS BUCHAREST AND CONSTANTA. BRASOV IS CONDUCTING THE ONLY CURRENTLY ACTIVE SISTER-CITIES EXCHANGES WITH THE U.S. (CLEVELAND) AND SCI SHOULD COME PREPARED TO BRIEF BRASOV AUTHORITIES ON CLEVELAND'S PLANS TO SEND DELEGATION TO BRASOV IN RETURN FOR BRASOV VISIT TO CLEVELAND LAST SPRING. WE UNDERSTAND CLEVELAND HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE BUT HAS NOT BEEN BACK IN CONTACT WITH MAYOR GHEORGHE DUMITRACHE, BRASOV, SINCE JUNE 1975. CODEL VANIK (OCTOBER 1975) APPEARED TO BE ONE WAY OF BRINGING LIFE TO EXCHANGE BUT WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING SINCE.

3. CONSTANTA MAYOR GHEORGHE TRANDAFIR APPROACHED VARIOUS U.S. CITIES' REPS REGARDING SISTER-CITIES POSSIBILITIES DURING HIS VISIT TO NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES CONFERENCE IN MIAMI (STATE 289139). OAKLAND SEEMED RECEPTIVE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT TRANDAFIR, WHILE IN WASHINGTON, RECEIVED A LIST OF U.S. CITIES WHICH MIGHT BE WILLING TO ESTABLISH SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH ROMANIAN COUNTERPARTS. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO STIMULATE A GOR RESPONSE SO THAT SUBJECT CAN BE DISCUSSED WITH SCI MISSION. FOR BEST RESULTS, ROMANISNS OUGHT TO BE GIVEN FAIRLY CONCRETE

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PROPOSALS RATHER THAN REMAINING BOGGED IN UNCERTAINTY OR

HESITANCY ABOUT HAVING
A CHANGE-OF-HEART OR REBUFF (AS IN
CASE OF CONSTANTA-LOS ANGELES).

4. AMBASSADOR TALKED AT LENGTH WITH IOSIF UGLAR, PARTY SECRETARY
AND CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE FOR PROBLEMS OF PEOPLES COUNCILS, ON
SEPTEMBER 19 (SEE A-166, OCTOBER 3). SCI MAY WISH TO READ REPAIR
FOR STATE OF PLAY ON URBAN EXCHANGES. AMBASSADOR PLANS GO
BACK TO UGLAR ON SUBJECT IN FEBRUARY.

5. AMBASSADOR WROTE MAYOR GEORGE ATHANSON, HARTFORD,
CONNECTICUT, LAST FALL ASKING WHETHER HE WOULD LIKE TO GET INTO
URBAN-EXCHANGE PICTURE FOLLOWING HIS VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO
BUCHAREST IN 1974. HE HAS BEEN RE-ELECTED BUT HAS NOT ANSWERED.
SCI MIGHT CHECK WITH HIM BEFORE DEPARTURE.

6. FOR SCI'S CONSIDERATION, WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING TENTATIVE,
ILLUSTRATIVE PAIRINGS OF CITIES; SCI MAY WISH TO SOUND OUT THESE
OR OTHER U.S. CITIES AS TO WHETHER THEY ARE INTERESTED: WE
WANT TO AVOID MAKING PROPOSALS WHICH LATER FALL THROUGH FOR
LACK OF U.S. INTEREST (E.G. LOS ANGELES) OR GRIND SLOWLY (E.G.
CLEVELAND).

CONSTANTA - OAKLAND, MIAMI
PLOESTI - TOPEKA OR KANSAS CITY KANSAS, OKLAHOMA CITY, HOUSTON
(PLOESTI'S TIE WITH KANSAS ARISES FROM CODEL SKUBITZ'S VISIT
TO PRAHOVA JUDET AND PLOESTI AND PRAHOVA'S INVITATION TO KANSAS
GOV. PEARSON.)

CLUJ - CINCINNATI, ATLANTA, MINNEAPOLIS

TIMISOARA - DENVER, COLUMBUS

IASI - RICHMOND, CHAPEL HILL, TUCSON

MANGALIA - SANTA BARBARA

GALATI - PITTSBURGH

CRAIOVA - DES MOINES, OAK RIDGE
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SIBIU - MADISON

7. PAIRING FOR BUCHAREST WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER SCI PRACTICE
IS TO MATCH NATIONAL CAPITALS.

8. EMBASSY COULD PREPARE MORE THOUGHTFUL PAIRING IF SCI SENDS
US LIST OF WILLING U.S. CITIES, WHICH REPORTEDLY WAS GIVEN

TO TRANDAFIR.
BARNES

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